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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,136	10/31/2003	Tadashi Shiraishi	F-8019	3465
28107	7590	08/29/2005	EXAMINER	
JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP			CARRILLO, BIBI SHARIDAN	
122 EAST 42ND STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 4000				
NEW YORK, NY 10168			1746	

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/699,136	SHIRAISHI, TADASHI	
	Examiner Sharidan Carrillo	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 · Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry (42724007) in view of Sameshima (JP01-028625) and further in view of Withers Jr (4007774).

Barry teaches a method of cleaning pipes and tubes, in heat exchangers, using ice in combination with water (Abstract, col. 2, lines 60-65, col. 4, lines 25-45). Barry fails to teach the limitations of connecting the suction hose to the pipe and suction pump, connecting the ice-feeding hose to the pipe and supplying ice and water from the hopper into the pipe.

Sameshima teaches flushing a pipe using a carriage 1 with a suction pipe mounted thereon and waste water collecting tank 2 (Fig. 1, page 3). On page 5, Sameshima teaches cleaning with ice water until clean water flushes into the waste water collecting tank. Ice water enters port 12 and is suction pumped through the branch pipe and waste is collected in tank 2. On page 6, Sameshima teaches using the method for cleaning of a usual piping. Sameshima fails to teach cleaning heat exchangers.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the method of Barry to include using a suction hose and pump in connection with the pipe, in order to flush ice and water through the pipe, as taught by Sameshima, thereby cleaning the interior surface of the pipe of debris. In reference to the hopper, Barry et al. teach various magazines such as hoppers (Fig. 11), for storing ice particles and further transporting the pipe in the piping for cleaning. Additionally, it is conventional in the art to use hoppers for the generation and storage of ice particles (US5934566).

Barry in view of Sameshima fail to teach the limitations directed to the principle of reverse-flow. Withers Jr. teaches cleaning heat exchanger tubes by periodically

reversing the fluid flow in order to remove coating deposits. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Barry to include reverse flow, as taught by Withers, for purposes of effectively removing contaminants from the interior surface of the heat exchanger tubes. Additionally, the concept of enhanced cleaning by reverse flow is notoriously well known and conventionally practiced in the art.

In reference to claim 3, Barry in view of Sameshima fails to teach a transparent portion of the ice feeding hose. However, it would have been within the level of the skilled artisan to modify the method of Barry et al. to include a transparent hose since Barry teaches the need to detect the completion of the cleaning cycle by observing whether ice flows into the waste water collecting tank at a faster velocity. In reference to claim 4, it would have been within the level of the skilled artisan to adjust the ratio of ice to water in order to form an effective composition which would be easily flowable, yet effective for scrubbing the interior surface of the pipe. In reference to claim 5, Barry et al., (col. 3, lines 35-40) teaches that the diameter of the pig is selected to permit it to penetrate the lumen of the contaminated tube. Given the teachings of Barry et al, it would have been well within the level of the skilled artisan to modify the size of the ice cube depending upon the diameter of the heat exchange tubing being cleaned and the amount of contaminants present therein.

Response to Arguments

In view of applicant's arguments, the rejection has been withdrawn and a new grounds of rejection has been applied, as presented above.

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Applicant argues the improper combination of Barry with Sameshima since Sameshima teaches against water jets and reverse-flow. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive since Sameshima's comments are directed to pipes installed in condominiums and buildings. Additionally, Sameshima does not teach against water jets and reverse flow. Sameshima teaches that it is not advisable with respect to the particular application of flushing piping installed in condominiums and buildings. Sameshima does not suggest that the process of water jets and reverse-flow would not work for other applications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharidan Carrillo whose telephone number is 571-272-1297. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:00a.m-2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sharidan Carrillo

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Primary Examiner
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bsc



SHARIDAN CARRILLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature of "Sharidan Carrillo" is written in cursive ink above her printed name and title. The signature is fluid and personal, with a large, stylized initial "S".